



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Ciales, PR	Accident Number:	ERA13LA152
Date & Time:	03/02/2013, 1500 AST	Registration:	N834RC
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44 II	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, the helicopter was in cruise flight about 700 feet above ground level when he perceived a loss of rotor rpm and entered autorotation. During the descent, the helicopter turned 180 degrees, struck power lines, and collided with terrain. A postcrash fire consumed a significant portion of the helicopter. A detailed examination of the remaining portions of the helicopter, its engine, and associated components revealed no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Enroute - Miscellaneous/other

Autorotation - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of main rotor rpm for reasons that could not be determined because an examination of the helicopter's engine and associated components did not reveal any mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Findings

Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	239 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Total, this make and model), 40 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Registration:	N834RC
Model/Series:	R44 II	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	HECTOR FORTIS SANTIAGO	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-AE1A5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	TJPS, 29 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots, 150°
Temperature:	29°C / 21°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Yauco, PR	Destination:	San Juan, PR (TJIG)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John J Neylon	Adopted Date:	08/07/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=86339		

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